THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) MBT Arjun has gone through all the tests and it is meeting the General Staff Qualitative Requirements of the Army. However during preparatory tests before comparative trials, certain systems have not met the acceptance criteria. These units are being rectified.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. More Ruggedisation is being introduced to withstand abnormal peak temperatures.

(e) Does not arise.

Security lapses in J&K

256. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be placed to state:

(a) whether there were security lapses which encouraged more extremist activities in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether army has been given more firepower in Jammu and Kashmir after last killing incidents during the last three months;

(d) if so, whether any directive has been issued to security forces to take measures to check infiltration and deal firmly with extremists that are operating at present in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Adequate fire power is available with the Army to counter terrorist activities.

(d) and (e) The Army is tasked with the responsibility to counter all terrorist activities. The overall counter infiltration measures and counter proxy war strategy deployed by the Army include a multi-tiered arrangement on the Line of Control (LoC) along with fencing and relentless operations in the hinterland so as to ensure that infiltration is minimized and violence levels in Jammu and Kashmir kept under check.